

Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership  
Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group  
Meeting Minutes: August 8, 2007

**I. Call to Order** by Richard Porter (Chair) at 1:30 p.m.

**II. Welcome and Introductions**

Richard Porter asked the attendees present to introduce themselves and their respective agency/group.

*Epidemiology Work Group Members Present*

Richard Porter, Arizona Department of Health Services, Bureau of Public Health Statistics (Chair)

Jeanne Blackburn, Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families, Division for Substance Abuse Policy (Staffer)

Wendy Wolfersteig, Arizona Prevention Resource Center, Arizona State University

James Cunningham, Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of Arizona (via conference call)

Michelle Anderson, Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections

Meena Shahi, Arizona Department of Health Services, Department of Behavioral Health Statistics

Phillip Stevenson, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

Zeenat Mahal, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona (via conference call)

Charles Katz, Center for Violence Prevention and Community Safety, Arizona State University, West

Jody Sekerak, Indian Health Services

*Work Group Members Absent*

Wesley Kortuem, Arizona Department of Health Services

Dennis Embry, PAXIS Institute

Catherine Osborne, Arizona Department of Education

Gowri Shetty, Arizona Department of Health Services, Tobacco Education Prevention Program

Jeanne Brandner, Arizona Administrative Office of the Courts

Katherine Guffey, Arizona Department of Economic Security

### Guests

Emma Kibisu, Arizona Department of Health Services, Behavioral Health Services

Blake Riley, Joint Legislative Budget Committee

Michelle Neitch, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

David Nahmias, Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families, Division for Substance Abuse Policy (Summer Intern)

Carisa Dwyer, Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families, Division for Substance Abuse Policy

### **III. Epidemiology Profile Update**

- Jeanne Blackburn reported that the Substance Abuse Epidemiology Profile is nearing completion, with pagination and the completion of Chapter 6: Assessment of Community Assets and Resources remaining to be completed. She also reported that, due its large size, the document has been divided into sections for ease of use and placement on the Division for Substance Abuse Policy website.
- Jeanne Blackburn provided a copy of the Executive Summary for the Epidemiology Profile to the members and guests present at the meeting and indicated that she would e-mail the document to the group so that those not present would be able to examine it.
- Richard Porter asked to discuss the Executive Summary. He recommended that the Executive Summary format be changed to a bulleted listing of "Findings" instead of the narrative form in which it was written. Further, he recommended that much of the Executive Summary text already written be used in the Introduction instead of in the Executive Summary.
- Richard Porter asked Wendy Wolfersteig to update the Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group as to the status of Chapter 6: Assessment of Community Assets and Resources.
  - Wendy Wolfersteig indicated to the group that the Resource Assessment would be completed shortly when the discrepancies between the data and the narrative were addressed.
  - Wendy Wolfersteig and Jeanne Blackburn agreed to meet early next week in order to finalize this chapter.
- Carisa Dwyer reiterated that the very short timeline for submitting comments on the Executive Summary or any other remaining comments on the Substance Abuse Epidemiology Profile necessitates comments being submitted this week.

#### **IV. “The Impact of Substance Abuse: A Snapshot of Arizona”**

- Jeanne Blackburn passed around a color, draft copy of the Snapshot document for the group to review. She indicated that she would send the electronic version to the group for their input on any major errors (only comments on glaring errors were requested as all changes to the narrative and/or layout had already been completed). Zeenat Mahal offered corrections regarding the most culturally-appropriate way in which to address tribes; specifically, she noted that the tribes prefer to be called “tribes in Arizona” rather than “Arizona Tribes” as the term “Arizona Tribes” gives the impression that the tribes “belong” to Arizona, rather than being separate entities that reside within Arizona’s borders.

#### **V. Identification of Methamphetamine Indicators & Timeline for Submission of Methamphetamine Data**

- Carisa Dwyer asked if the group would volunteer to meet between regular meetings to identify methamphetamine indicators that are available on a quarterly basis. The following members volunteered to do so:
  - Charles Katz, ASU
  - Meena Shahi, ADHS, DBHS
  - Phillip Stevenson, ACJC
  - Michelle Anderson, ADJC
  - James Cunningham, University of Arizona
  - Jody Sekerak, IHS

#### **VI. Discussion and Outline of Annual Methamphetamine Report and Quarterly Methamphetamine Report Cards**

- Reports will be due November, February, May, August (+/- an annual report)
- In order to allow her time to compile the data and draft the report, data will be due to Jeanne Blackburn a month prior to each report due date (i.e., October, January, April, July).
- Questions asked by group members about the methamphetamine reports and Substance Abuse Epidemiology profile were:
  - How many reports will this group produce?
  - How should this information be made available to the public?
  - Can we track number of website hits?
  - Will the Governor’s Office release the Substance Abuse Epidemiology Profile publicly?
  - Can participating agencies distribute/post the Profile?
- It was noted that Communications/Community Relations should be invited to the next Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group meeting in order to discuss issues related to copyrights, number of website hits for the Substance Abuse Epidemiology Profile, etc.

## **VII. Discussion of Future Activities**

- Based on the language of the Executive Order, Wendy Wolfersteig asked about the obligation of this group to do a resource assessment.
- Volunteers for the Emerging Issues subcommittee were:
  - Zeenat Mahal
  - Phillip Stevenson
  - Meena Shahi
  - Wendy Wolfersteig
  - Charles Katz
- Phillip Stevenson suggested that the group look at developing white papers and suggested other products of the Work Group:
  - Fact Sheets (e.g., substance abuse by the elderly, etc.)
  - Dissemination of data from the subtopic areas of the Substance Abuse Epidemiology Profile (e.g., small substance-specific reports)
  - Press Releases
  - Interim/Annual reports
- Richard Porter, Chair, asked the group whether the group would like to have agency presentations at each meeting similar to James Cunningham's presentation at the last Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group meeting.
  - Ideas for presentation topics:
    - Data collection tools
    - Economic impact of substance abuse
    - Methodology
  - Presentations should be no longer than 15 minutes.
- Conversations took place among the group members regarding the opportunity to make serious recommendations to the Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership regarding data issues and the need to respond to the Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership mandates listed in the Executive Order.
- Phillip Stevenson discussed the need to reduce the number of questions currently asked of respondents to the Arizona Youth Survey from 238 to approximately 178.
  - The items that will not be removed include the Risk and Protective Factors; Substance Abuse Indicators related to prevalence; delinquency items; Project Safe Neighborhoods.
  - Among the items that may be eliminated are those questions related to students' home language.
  - Group members asked Phillip Stevenson to send a copy of the Arizona Youth Survey questions that may be removed from the survey.

### **VIII. Call to Public**

- Blake Riley from the Joint Legislative Budget Committee was present.
- A call to the public was made; no one present responded to the call.

**IX. Adjournment of Meeting** was made at 3:30 p.m.